

Appl. No.: 09/975,556
Amdt. Dated: 09/05/2006
Off. Act. Dated: 05/02/2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion presented herein.

1. **Rejection of Claims 3-60 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.**

The Examiner has rejected Claims 3-60 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, because it is the Examiner's opinion that the invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In response, the independent claims in the instant application have been amended to recite the step of routing data through a loop-free path in the network, where the loop-free path is determined using the tables recited in the claim.

Thus, the claims of the instant application now recite a tangible result in the body of the claim, as required by the Examiner. Thus, claims 3-60 should now be in condition for allowance.

2. **Amendments Made Without Prejudice or Estoppel.**

Notwithstanding the amendments made and accompanying traversing remarks provided above, Applicants have made these amendments in order to expedite allowance of the currently pending subject matter. However, Applicants do not acquiesce in the original ground for rejection with respect to the original form of these claims. These amendments have been made without any prejudice, waiver, or estoppel, and without forfeiture or dedication to the public, with respect to the original subject matter of the claims as originally filed or in their form immediately preceding these amendments. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original scope of these claims in the future, such as through continuation practice for example.

3. **Conclusion.**

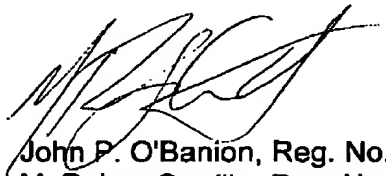
Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the various grounds for rejection in the Office Action be reconsidered and withdrawn with respect to the presently amended form of the claims, and that a Notice of Allowance be issued for the present application to pass to issuance. No new matter has been added.

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In the event any further matters remain at issue with respect to the present application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner please contact the undersigned below at the telephone number indicated in order to discuss such matter prior to the next action on the merits of this application.

Date: September 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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